# HAPPENINGS IN THE REALMS OF MOTION PICTURES

David Belasco Writes of Moving Pictures as They Were and as They Will Be.

BY DAVID BELASCO.

Editor's Note-After many offers for the pictorial rights to his successes,

plays would be available for screen production.

With several friends I visited various picture houses, and the more I saw of the condition of motion pictures the less I was inclined to enter the industry, even indirectly.

Within a stone's throw of Broadway and 42d st. I witnessed an hour's performance in the dirtiest, foul smelling danger hole of a theatre that it has ever been my misfortune to enter. During my forty-five minutes in this place an attendant succeeded in equirting enough supposed perfumed sterilizing fluid into my eyes to prevent my seeing any worthy pictures. The programme at this house was composed of five reels of dramatic pictures. Of the entire five no two were dissimilar, and the finale of each one was so much ive reels of dramatic pictures. Of the centire five no two were dissimilar, and the finale of each one was so much alike that the final scenes could have been switched from one film to another and would have agreed with the story. The accompanying illustration of the house I visited gives an apt insight into the then condition of the motion picture "game," as they like to term it.

The lobby of this house was a flar-

term it.

The lobby of this house was a flaring demonstration of the cradity of both the exhibitor and the producer, and while there were various worthy subjects filmed, the great majorsty were mediocre to the point of repulsiveness.

One huge poster announced that "The Dwarf of Blood," a thrilling romance in two parts, was just what would please yourself, your wife and children.

from accruing royattles.

3. "The Girl of the Golden West," to be staged in Great Bear Valley, California. Types of artists for leading roles to be selected by myself. Cabin of the girl to be built according to specifications submitted by a yeslf.

There are a few instances. If a manager is not aiding in the uplif of the productions being made where the best results can be obtained, then uplift hus not the meaning I think it has.

Here is a scenario of "The Dwarf of has.

Enter hunchback. Sinks knife between shoulder blades of elderly spin-ster. Gloweringly gloats over blood spots on carpet. Ransacks room, cecures purse of gold and jewels and casits.

Enter detective with magnifying glass, studies blood spots, and, standing erect, announces (in sub-title) "The Dwarf did this" and exits on trail of "the Dwarf."

Dwarf next seen torturing farmer

and his wife in an outlying hamlet. Again gloats over blood and again ame detective deducts that Dwarf is

the culprit.

Detective disguised as window cleaner, watching passersby. Sees hunchback. Follows him to rendezvous of criminals and after a desperate hand to hand fight, in which the hunchback is fatally wounded, the detective points to his own blood and delivers a moral.

The jewelry and gold are returned to the spinster just as she is about to be dispossessed by a cruel landlord. Three neidents of excitement in 2,000 feet of worthless film.

worthiess film.

The audience which witnessed "The Dwarf of Blood," which was so highly recommended to women and children by the exhibitor, was composed chiefly of women and children.

At another theatre the chief feature

At another theatre the chief feature of the day's programme was a two-reel subject called "Joining the Masons," a farce comedy with a "laugh every minute"—to quote the posters.

On the front of the theatre were namerous lithographic pictures of a nan mounted on a goat and crosslining the top of the pictures was the title on strips of transparent paper printed in crude ink letters. Showing through the paper bearing the title were the words "Ehret's Bock Beer." The enterprising manager had converted the trewely advertisement into pictorial "one sheets" for his biggest feature.

The picture is best left to the dim and distant past. Any comment is un-

The picture is best left to the dim and distant past. Any comment is unnecessary. The lithographs told the tale. The picture compared favorably with the lobby display, and the lobby was in itself a work of art. A dimunitive girl dispensed tickets from behind a network of "chicken coop" wire. The tickets were grimy and soiled and evidently had been used over and over. Refuse was piled knee high behind the easels upon which crudely framed

Refuse was piled shee high behind the casels upon which crudely framed illy taken photographs rested and the doerman's only decoration was what is commonly termed a "cauliflower ear." I visited many of these monstrosi-ties—but enough of the saw dust

The Strand Theatre amply overhalances any dozen miserable photo-play houses in Greater New York. What magnificence, what foresight, what giant strides in a few years! Entering the lobby of the house, one is first impressed by the very dignity of the advertising display. It

does justice to the elaborateness the interior and the beauty of the I sat three hours in a loge box at the Strand, seventy feet from the screen, and witnessed the entire programme. First came a very funny picture of Ford Sterling in one of his far-fetched characters. It was a fast and funny picture of its kind, possessed no particular dramatic value,

sessed no particular dramatic value, but added variety to the bill. Then came the topical review. Events of the previous week, picturized. Actual scenes of interest and universal value from the news stantpoint, shown within a few days, then a few operatic singers of no mean ability, and then "The Master Mind," with the excellent actor, Edmund Breese, in his original role in that play.

Truly, the sdvance of motography
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a work of art, and the dramatic value of the piece was added to greatly by the excellent scenic effects. All in all, I consider "The Squaw Man" the best

the pictorial rights to his successes, thavid Belasco finally awarded the rights to Jesse L. Lasky. Here he tells why he refused to enter filmdom for three years.

In comparing the present day motion picture palace with the picture theatre of a few years agone, one needs but remember of the Barbary Coast "honky tenk"—Music hall and beer garden combined—which existed in San Francisco twenty-five years ago.

I was first approached three years ago and offered a goodly sum to enter the motion picture field. I promised the manager who approached me that would look over the field, and if "movies" impressed me I would gladly enter into an agreement whereby my plays would be available for screen production.

With several friends I visited various

The excellent scenie effects. All in all, I consider "The Squaw Man" the best picturization of a stage play which has come under my notice. And I have seen quite a few since I became interested in the art. The great leap from 1909 to the present day Vitagraph Theatre is too evident to fequire details. Little Miss Young, who played the difficult role of the farce heroine in "Goodness Gracious; or, Movies as They Shouldn't Be," carried off a most trying role. Miss Young confided to me later that while she enjoyed her part in that piece, she much preferred dramatic pieces, with serious parts.

Miss Stowart's role in "A Million Bid" demonstrated how far advanced the strictly motion picture actress is. The part called for extraordinarily serious work, and Miss Stewart's efforts were flawless.

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Miss Stowart's role in "A Million



Experts.

The controversy started in this way:
Cobb sat in the garden of "Our Mutual
Girl's" house recently, recounting to
Miss Phillips and Maym Kelso his adventures abroad. Mr. Cobb told how
he had annotated, connotated, analyzed and even eaten every known form
of sausage. Soon after Miss Phillips
related Cobb's sausage statements to
Mutual Girl" serial. Mr. Brennan admitted that Cobb had made a correct
Mutual Girl" serial. Mr. Brennan admitted that Cobb had made a correct
but held that only one kind of sausage
is edible—the kind that the diner prefers at the time he has his meal.
When Sir Arthur and Lady Dovle.

Some of the movie fans even write
poetry to their favorites. Here is a verse which Edwin August received received recently. Just by way of making it worse it was written on birch bark.
Two stars dropped from the summer heaven,
Darkening the skies,
But, dear, I've found them brighter still within your eyes.
A sunbeam lay athwart the earth.
Then vanished for a while.
But now it gleams all golden warm within your smile."

Margarita Fischer's work in "The claim of your extremely interesting that of the law in a meat pictures are a welcome addition to the list of motion pictures on Broadway, there is a verse which Edwin August received recently, Just by way of making it worse it was written on birch bark.
They series than the Gasino Theatre, show wild animals with an intimate of the distribution of the distribution of the distribution to the list of motion pictures on Broadway, These remarkable views, which are list of motion pictures on Broadway.
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is edible—the kind that the differ pre-fers at the time he has his meal.

When Sir Arthur and Lady Doyle ar-rived in New York they were met by
Mr. Brennan. Brennan told Sir Ar-thur of Mr. Cobb's plunge into motion picture work and incidentally repeated the Paducah humorist's rash statement

the Paducah humorist's rash statement in regard to sausage.
"If you have the opportunity," said Sir Arthur, "I wish you would tell him that in my travels through Germany I found all the kinds of sausage he did. But, whereas he found three varieties which were eatable, I found only two. Tell him that I have made exhaustive experiments with the genus bologna, frankfurter and wienerwurst and found that only two of the species can be digested."

Brennan promised to convey the English nuthor's message to Cobb, and at the first opportunity wrote Cobb of Sir Arthur's criticism. Cobb was romping with his little twin dachs-hunde on the lawn of his summer home, at North Hatley, Quebec, when he received the letter. Painstaking as he is in securing historical and other data for his books, Mr. Cobb at first was displeased at Sir Arthur's

# AT BIG THEATRES

Offered at the Best Houses

Along Broadway.

The triple bill at the Vitagraph Theatre is proving a happy combination. Not only does it present short will hold the attention on even the hottest days, but it offers three distinct types of stories, which combine thrills, laughter and tears. "The Vitin of M sizer' is a pathetic story with a happy ending. The attraction. Clara Kimball Young and Etienne Girardot handle their roles in a charming manner, Miss Young being particularly effective in the earlier scenes.

Comedy is at its height in "Mr. Bingle's Melodrama," while a serious presentation of the melodrama is seen in "Shadows of the Past." As usual, the Vitagraph release will be shown each day.

"GERMANIA" AT THE STRAND.

"Always sincerely yours, "Henry Fairelle OSBORN, "President." President." President. The vitagraph company has purchased and will produce three of the presentation of the title role in "Manon Left and will produce three of the value of Courage," Golone Jäsper Ewing Brady, the author's bother, late, of the United States army, but now attached to the studie staff, will president in this picture is by no means its least attraction. Clara Kimball Young and Etienne Girardot handle their roles in a charming manner, Miss Young being particularly effective in the earlier seenes.

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"GERMANIA" AT THE STRAND."

you may desire to specify in your deed of gift; that is, if you do not wish any use to be made of these films pending their commercial use, your wishes will be followed. What I desire to secure for the American Museum is the permanent preservation of these extremely important scientific records.

"Always sincerely yours."

that she wanted to wear the hat in shurry and could find no decoration.

Andrew Mack will shortly be seen in a picture version of his greatest success, "The Ragged Earl." Popular Plays and Players, Inc., are the producers.

SPEAKING OF SAUSAGE

Irvin Cobb and Conan Doyle in Controversy Over Species.

Irvin S. Cobb says there are 356 kinds of sausage, of which only there are edible. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Controvers William St. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Grune, author and actor, goes even forther than Conan Doyle in Hard and actor, goes even forther than Conan Doyle in Hard and actor, goes even forther than Conan Doyle in Hard and actor, goes even forther than Conan Doyle in disputing the American author and holds that only one kind of sousage, to seal the capter of the sausage container.

The Controversy Started in this way:

Some of the movie fans even write

The Arrican Standard Theatre for the youngster, although his facial expression in the world is an accomplished youngster, although his facial expression in not all that could be desired.

The story deals with the frouthloust times in Germany, which led to the first feeder of the least flower. The time of the pictures of the same in the open and the other past and the other past and the other times in Germany, which led to the times in Germany, wh

spectator realizes that a felon does not pose for the camera "while maturing his felonious little plans."

The portions of the film which are devoted to the actual scenes of the story are quite successful. The force of the original is well brought out on the screen. The author himself appears in a few scenes.

# CONTINUED POPULARITY.

When first commenting on "Cabiria" we mentioned the difficulty which at-tends writing about it without sounding like a press agent. This is still true. Standing room only seems to be the rule rather than the exception at the Knickerbocker Theatre in the evening. Not only is there the attrac-tion of the most remarkable series of spectacles ever flashed on a motion spectacles ever masked on a motor-picture screen, but there is an inter-esting story well acted. The violently gesticulating form of acting which spoils so many Italian films is absent from the D'Annanzio work. In Atlantic City and Chicago "Ca-

biria" is also proving popular. In the early fall it will be exhibited in other

# ROSE GARDEN TO OPEN.

The newest thing in the way of pre-senting motion pictures on Broadway will be known under the rather lengthy title of the "Broadway Rose Garden Theatre and Dance de Pierette," and will open during the week. The resort startling thing when one considers its startling thing when one considers its theatre, restaurant and dance hall. The Thanhauser pictures will be shown first at the theatre and will be featured, as Charles J. Hite, president of the concept is also president of the concept in ured, as Charles J. Hite, president of the on.

As a means of spreading the desire

VITAGRAPH THEATRE

to see the pictures in complete detail. The longest projection in the world is



The first pictures will be the opening instalment of "The Million Dollar Mystery" and a showing of pictures taken under the sea by means of a newly invented device. The pictures were taken in the West Indies, and show a fight between a native diver and

# The string of an own three strings of a own three strings of an own three strings of a own th

# SELLING BY FILMS Motion Pictures Formally Recognized as Advertising Force. Motion pictures as an advertising force were given recognition for the first time in the history of advertising associations by the Associated Adversing the force were given recognition for the force were given recognition for the force were given recognition for the corporations of many kinds and even instanced the use Uncle Sam is making of motion pictures of the United States

PENRHYN STANLAWS . MAKES A PASTEL FOR THE MOVIES

pany to join the Universal on July 15. Steamships, superior manufacturing facilities, sanitary methods, sporting goods, surgical operations, science, so missed from their studio very much. As noted in an interview with Miss Fuller printed last week, she has ambitious plans, and she is making the change solely because she believes she will further them by it.

Steamships, superior manufacturing goods, surgical operations, science, stocks and bonds, textiles, trade mark campaigns, temperane, town sites, to bacco, wearing apparel. "You may use a motion picture to advertise a community, a city, a state, a nation, a product, a service, a business, a manufacturing

a corporation, an institution or organization, an idea, a public measure or propaganda."

Mr. Smallwood gave examples of national advertisers to illustrate each di-vision of his subject, a list of cities and railroads, manufacturing concerns army and navy to help recruit men to criticism

of motion pictures of the Child States of the service.

He then dealt at length with the subject of moving picture distribution, both in the movie theatres and in many other channels not usually hought of by the advertising man in considering the question of "circulation" for the industrial motion picture.

Considering the question of circulation for the industrial motion picture.

Considering Wieny and Wurst, his Gathering Wieny and Wurst, his deshended, to his lap (Cobb's lap really is ample), he sat down and, in the heat of passion, dictated the following reply to Sir Arthur:

"De gustibus non disputandum. Personally I prefer knackwurst to cervelatwurst and krautwurst to bratism."